

REMARKS

Claims 9-19 are pending in the present application. The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for not being provided on a separate sheet. Claims 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cock (EP 0878 667 A2).

Reconsideration of the application based on the amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to the specification

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for not being provided on a separate sheet. The abstract has now been provided on a separate sheet. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract of the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cock (EP 0878 667 A2).

EP '667 describes an oven cleaning process in which a heating element 4 is first switched off at a temperature of a porous plug (catalyst) in the range 450 to 600 °C, the oven center temperature perhaps being in the range 300 to 350 °C. See col. 3, lines 2-15. The heating element 4 is switched on and off to keep the porous plug temperature in the range 450 to 600 °C. See col. 3, lines 20-23. Towards the end of the cleaning process an end-point datum is identified when the difference between the temperature of the oven temperature sensor 12 and the porous plug temperature sensor 15 falls below a predetermined amount. See col. 3, lines 37-42.

Independent claim 9 of the present application recites

generating a first electrical control signal based on a first control state, ... the first control state being reached when a catalyst temperature is higher than an oven chamber temperature and a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature is greater than or equal to a first threshold value; and

controlling the heating source using the first electrical control signal so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant.

It is respectfully submitted that EP '667 does not teach controlling the heating source based on a temperature difference between the catalyst temperature and the oven chamber temperature being greater than or equal to a first threshold value, so that the oven chamber temperature is maintained substantially constant, as recited in claim 9. In contrast, EP '667 controls heating so that the porous plug (catalyst) temperature is maintained in a desired range. See EP '667 col. 3, lines 20-23. EP '667 turns off the heating element 4 when an end-point datum is identified at which the difference between the temperature of the oven temperature sensor 12 and the porous plug temperature sensor 15 falls below a predetermined amount. See EP '667 col. 3, lines 37-42. Because EP '667 fails to teach the above-recited features of independent claim 9, it cannot anticipate claim 9 or its dependent claims.

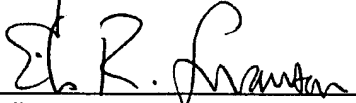
Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on EP '667 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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